

Partner in Progress Award Recipients

October 23rd, 2008

Senator Bob Meeks – Senator Meeks represented Northeast Indiana in the State Senate for 20 years and had previously served as a State Trooper. Senator Meeks was given a Partner in Progress award upon retiring from the Senate in 2008.

November 18th, 2008

Reginald and Tracey Jones – Mr. and Mrs. Jones are successful business owners and operators of several McDonald's restaurants in central Indiana. They were both given a Partner in Progress award for their support of the McMiracle on East 38th Street. Each year they give food, bikes, and helmets to families in need during the holidays. In 2007, they helped 7,200 families.

April 13th, 2009

Center for Leadership Development – The Center for Leadership Development (CLD) provides thousands of students needed resources to help them achieve a college education. CLD was given a Partner in Progress award at the opening ceremonies of a new facility, where the staff was recognized for encouraging youth to become leaders.

May 26th, 2009

Shane McCoy – Mr. McCoy was instrumental in persuading Honda to expand in Indiana and create jobs for Hoosiers. He was given a Partner in Progress at his farewell celebration.

June 5th, 2009

Franklin College – Franklin College in Johnson County has a long, rich history of educating Hoosiers and non-Hoosiers alike. Franklin College was given a Partner in Progress award on the college's 175th Anniversary.

June 12th, 2009

Senator Katie Wolf – Senator Wolf was the first woman to seek and be elected as a State Representative from District 25 and as a State Senator from District 7. Senator Wolf was given a Partner in Progress award at the Women Giving Together Luncheon to recognize her dedicated service to the community and the State of Indiana.

June 15th, 2009

Robert Juncker – Mr. Juncker dedicated his life to agriculture education. He worked for the Department of Education for 30 years and served in several roles with Indiana Future Farmers of America (FFA). Mr. Juncker was given a Partner in Progress award during his retirement from FFA at the State FFA Convention.

August 5th, 2009

Faith Killian Fassnacht – Miss. Killian Fassnacht, an 11 year-old, from Lafayette was given a Partner in Progress award for Operation Teddy Bear and Bear Hugs to the Troops. Since August 2007, she has collected teddy bears and letters to US troops in Iraq. The soldiers give the bears to children, including those in orphanages.

August 13th, 2009

Dr. Clint Rusk – Dr. Rusk was given a Partner in Progress award after his retirement. Dr. Rusk was awarded for his service to Indiana through animal agriculture and education. For 12 years he served as chairman of the State Agriculture Judging Committee. He also coordinated annual agricultural judging contests as well as developed youth training seminars related to animal projects.

August 18th, 2009

Lt. Governor Skillman recognized 11 individuals by presenting Partner in Progress awards to long-serving State Fair volunteers and retiring State Fair board members at the Indiana State Fair.

Nila Armstrong – Ms. Armstrong was given a Partner in Progress award for her more than 30 years as volunteer in the State Fair's Cattle Department.

Bob Cain – Mr. Cain was given a Partner in Progress award for his many years of volunteer service at the State Fair in the Building and Grounds Department. He is responsible for keeping the grounds clean and aspects of the State Fair good working condition.

Barbara Crowell – Ms. Crowell was given a Partner in Progress award for her many years of volunteer service at the State Fair. She is responsible for the 4-H desk.

Jeff Henson – Mr. Henson was given a Partner in Progress award for his many years of volunteer service at the Harness Racing Program as well as the gates to the State Fair.

Dave Kinder – Mr. Kinder was given a Partner in Progress award for his many years of volunteer service as the organizer for the entire shuttle bus program at the State Fair.

Diana Kuhn – Ms. Kuhn was given a Partner in Progress award for her service to the State Fair as a State Fair board member. Ms. Kuhn retired from the board in 2009.

Mark Merkel – Mr. Merkel was given a Partner in Progress award for his service to the State Fair as State Fair board member president. Mr. Merkel retired from the board in 2009.

Kathy Rucker – Ms. Rucker was given a Partner in Progress award for her volunteer service as the manager of the State Fair dance stage for 15 years.

Alan Washburn – Mr. Washburn was given a Partner in Progress award for his volunteer service to the State Fair as the official voice of the State Fair for the past 25 years.

Mauri Williamson - Mr. Williamson was given a Partner in Progress award for his volunteer service to the State Fair as the founder and creator of Pioneer Village.

September 9th, 2009

Dr. Brian Bowen – Dr. Bowen was given a Partner in Progress award for his service to Indiana through the Center for Coal Technology Research and Purdue University. Dr. Bowen is credited for preparing and presenting 14 scholarly papers that helped educate Hoosiers and people across the globe about energy.

October 1, 2009

Judge Charles Pratt – Judge Pratt was given a Partner in Progress award at the 20th Annual Conference on Youth, a conference that he founded. He also created Great KIDS make Great Communities to provide youth development initiatives. His efforts have helped Allen County receive the All American City for the fourth year.

October 20, 2009

Radius | Indiana – All Radius Indiana board members below were awarded a Partner in Progress for their commitment to economic development in an eight county region in south central Indiana. Each member dedicated themselves to efforts to bring new opportunity to Indiana.

Ryan Asberry

Dale Ankrom

Joan Bethell

Don DuBois

Gene Mc Cracken

Marie-Christine Pence

Ken Sendelweck

Cullen McCarty

Susan Kleinman

Ron Arnold

Doug Conrad

Judy Gray

Jerry Ott

Jerry Rose

Rex Williams

October 27, 2009

Jeff Turner – Mr. Jeff Turner was given a Partner in Progress award at a fall dinner. He was recognized for his service to the Dekalb County community. Mr. Turner is known around the community as someone willing to help organizations in need; such as, the United Way and local YMCA.

November 21, 2009

Andrea Neely – Ms. Andrea Neely was awarded a Partner in Progress at the United Negro College Fund gala. Ms. Neely was an integral part of the UNCF and went above what is expected in order to make the organization stronger.

February 1, 2010

Chrisney Library – The Chrisney Library in southwest Indiana was awarded for their work in making the library a model for all other libraries. They are the state's first zero emissions library. The branch uses solar energy and geothermal technology for its energy needs, which makes their monthly energy costs zero.

February 6, 2010

Randy Woodson – Dr. Randy Woodson was awarded a Partner in Progress for being a champion of agriculture in Indiana. In his role at Purdue University, Dr. Woodson represented Purdue and the state of Indiana at local agriculture economic development summits. He is also credited for bringing home more opportunities for Indiana agriculture through global missions.

February 24, 2010

Erin Slater – Ms. Erin Slater was presented a Partner in Progress at the Inspire 2010 Power of Mentoring Awards for her work with College Mentors for Kids. Ms. Slater founded the Purdue University Chapter and currently serves as Chief Executive Officer. Under her experienced leadership College Mentor for Kids has grown and thrived. Countless young people have benefited from the organization's mission of mentoring.